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The

CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

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*Catholicism and
Communism
'Purgatory Month'*

NOVEMBER, 1949

THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

Edited by former Roman Catholic Priests

"When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."—Luke xiii:32

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Vol. 10 (New Series)

NOVEMBER, 1949

No.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$2.00 a year (10 issues); Single copy 25¢

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES:

J. A. Kensit, Protestant Truth Society, 184 Fleet Street, London, England.
Rev. Edwin J. Taylor, Protestant Truth Society, 7 Bonnie Brae Blvd., Toronto 6, Canada.
Evangelical Publishers, 386 Bay St., Toronto 1, Canada.
Gospel Books, 88 King St., Catherines, Ont., Canada.
Saskatoon News Agency, 156 Second Ave., Saskatoon, Sask., Canada.
Upper Canada Tract & Book Society, 406 Yonge St., Toronto 2, Canada.
Kewick Book Depot, 315 Collins St., Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.
Protestant Association of South Africa, P. O. Box 2976, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA.

All communications, checks and money orders

for the Magazine or Christ's Mission should be addressed:

CHRIST'S MISSION INC., 160 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

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Message OF THE Month

'Now Is The Acceptable Time . . .'

NOW, this minute, today—not later, tomorrow, next year, or a Pope's 'Holy Year'—the gift of salvation is assured, according to the true teaching of the Christian Gospel. It is free, it comes from God, by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus, and is not hindered, delayed or conditioned by the will of any man. "*Behold, now is the acceptable time: behold, now is the day of salvation*" (Douay 2 Cor. 6:2).

The Evangelical Christian plan of salvation differs entirely from that of other religions, where church regulations, ritualistic observances, and particularly the ministrations of a priest, are essential for the obtaining of any promise even of a partial salvation. It seems unfair that a sinner dying on a battle field, on a sinking ship or in a desert, should be eternally damned just because he had no access to a priest properly endowed with power to pronounce a prescribed formula and perform certain motions with his hand.

Time and place, together with other man-made conditions, are obstacles placed in the way of grace by religious systems like Roman Catholicism. Why have to wait till 1950 and travel to Rome in order to obtain "indulgence and pardon of all punishment due for sins," as Pope Pius XII recently proclaimed? Simply because it is Pope Pius XII, a man, who claims he can thus grant indulgence and pardon.

When God, however, acts toward the sinner, pardon is direct, instant and complete: "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith unto this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God*" (Rom. 5:1, 2).

All that is required is the yielding *now* to Christ, to receive instantly and freely, in any place whatever, the gift of salvation complete.

Are These The Bones?



THE MOST SENSATIONAL REPORT ever to come out of the Vatican was the announcement in a special dispatch to the N. Y. *Times* of last August 22, that what are believed to be the bones of the Apostle Peter have been discovered in a crypt below the main altar in St. Peter's.

The story was related by the *Times'* special correspondent, Camille M. Cinfarra, although he stated that all who knew about the alleged discovery were bound by an oath of secrecy not to confirm or deny it. Only Pope Pius XII and half a dozen high Vatican officials were reported as knowing the secret. But as is usual with news items from Vatican sources, confusion was created the following day by an AP dispatch from Rome quoting another Vatican source which described the story as a "fantasy."

For several months previous, Pope Pius XII had been hinting of such a discovery, and an official announcement of it was expected to be made at the inauguration of the 'Holy Year' which opens on Christmas Eve.

For nearly 1500 years, the Roman Catholic Church has been claiming

that Peter, "Prince of the Apostles," had been the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, that he founded the Roman Church and was martyred in Rome under the Emperor Nero and buried in Rome under Vatican Hill. There is no proof of this from the New Testament, which, however, tells of Paul's journeys to Rome and Peter's ministry among "the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (I Peter 1). Exhaustive searches by archeologists have been made in vain down the centuries to find even one inscription in the Catacombs and other ruins of ancient places in Rome that would indicate that Peter at least visited Rome.

Now comes the announcement that his bones had been resting all through the centuries in a plain burial urn less than twenty feet below the pavement of St. Peter's. Since the discovery, the bones are said to be closely guarded by the Pope himself in a private chapel next to his study.

There is no doubt that if sufficient evidence is produced to make this dis-

covery seem genuine, a great victory will be claimed by the Roman Catholic Church—one of the greatest in its history. Bones and relics have always been an important part of the stock-in-trade of the Roman Catholic religion. But till now, no relic was had of St. Peter, who is claimed to be the founder and first pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Whether or not these are the bones of St. Peter, they will provide a great attraction to pilgrims visiting Rome for the 'Holy Year' of 1950, and increase the number of devout Roman Catholics who will make the pilgrimage to Rome next year to see and venerate them.

This alleged discovery will also be made a challenge to Protestant scholars, and there will be much disputation and argument back and forth. Volumes will be written to deny and confirm the claims made, but nothing certain will ever be concluded.

But after all, what do some bones matter? The important thing is, does the Church of Rome teach the same Gospel that Peter taught? The New

Testament contains (in the *Acts* and in Peter's own two epistles) what the Apostle Peter taught about Christ and salvation. Succession from Peter should thus be claimed, not by those who say they have discovered his bones, but by those who teach the full Gospel as he did—the Evangelical teaching of salvation by grace through faith. *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God"* (1 Pet. 3:18).



TO LIVE IS CHRIST

CHRIST is the solace of our life. All our true joys come from Him; and in times of trouble, His presence is our consolation. There is nothing worth living for but Him; and His loving kindness is better than life! Christ is the object of our life. As speeds the ship towards the port, so hastes the believer towards the haven of his Saviour's bosom. As flies the arrow to its goal, so flies the Christian towards the perfecting of his fellowship with Christ Jesus. As the soldier fights for his captain, and is crowned in his captain's victory, so the believer contends for Christ, and gets his triumph out of the triumphs of his Master. For him to live is Christ.

—C. H. Spurgeon

*The source of Catholic power
is in the graveyard*

'Purgatory Month'

NOVEMBER is called the *Month of the Holy Souls*, or 'Purgatory Month,' in the Roman Catholic Church. Masses are offered in great quantity this month, and appeals made to the people to remember their dead friends and relatives in Purgatory. It is believed that these souls suffer great torment in the flames of Purgatory, that they cannot help themselves any more, and can look only to their friends on earth to shorten or ameliorate their pains.

This un-Christian doctrine of Purgatory is based on the distinction made in Roman Catholic theology between the *guilt* of sin and *punishment* for sin. The Catholic people are taught that the priest in confession can forgive them only the guilt of their sins, and that they themselves must suffer or make up for the punishment due to them. There is no Scriptural proof for such a distinction, for we are assured in 1 John 1:7 that, "*The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*"

Nor is the distinction logical even according to human reasoning. It would be unfair to forgive a criminal the guilt of his crime and still send him to prison to expiate for it. But the main thing to remember is that

we are here dealing with God's mercy to sinful man, according to the fulfillment of His promise of a Saviour whose work must be complete. Never was such perfect forgiveness known before. The mind of man could never reason to it. It would be incredible had we not God's word for it, that He not only forgives, but *forgets* sin. "*And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more*" (Heb. 10:17). "*Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea*" (Micah 7:19).

But Purgatory is essential to the whole work of the Roman Catholic priesthood. For if it were taught that by Christ's one sacrifice on Calvary sinners are saved "to the uttermost," it would be impossible to get the people to accept a mere half-measure of forgiveness by a priest in a confession box.

In this issue of our magazine will be found articles dealing with this central Catholic doctrine of Purgatory. Our intention in stressing this subject is that all may come to understand the great consoling facts about salvation as assured by New Testament teaching, and to reject the false half-measure offered by the Roman Catholic Church.

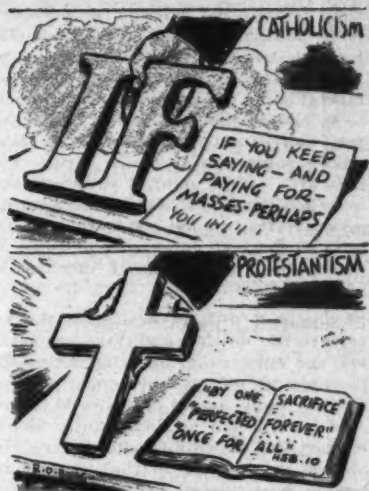
Cardinal [Saint] Bellarmine's Teaching About Purgatory

CARDINAL BELLARMINE, an outstanding theologian of the Roman Catholic Church, was canonized a 'saint' by the late Pope Pius XI. But what this great Roman Catholic theologian taught about the cruel tortures in Purgatory that even the best of Catholics have to undergo after they die, makes terrifying reading.

In the first place, Cardinal Bellarmine (in accord with official Roman Catholic teaching) taught that the punishment in Purgatory is the same as in Hell; that it is the same fire that burns lost souls in Hell. "The situation of Purgatory in which the souls are cleansed," he says, "is adjacent to that in which the damned are punished." He then adds: "Almost all theologians teach that the damned and the souls in Purgatory are in the same place, and are tortured in the same fire."*

The Cardinal gives many illustrations of the terrifying tortures of Purgatory. He tells of the following incident in the life of St. Christina, by Cantepratensis, an author, he says, of high repute. He tells how St. Christina died, but was afterward returned to life, and in the presence of many witnesses tells of her experiences in Purgatory in the following words:

* Cardinal Bellarmine's *Works*, Vol. II, Book II, Chapter II, p. 406.



THERE'S A GREAT DIFFERENCE

"Immediately as I departed from the body, my soul was received by ministers of light and angels of God, and conducted to a dark and horrid place, filled with the souls of men. The torments which I there witnessed, are so dreadful, that to attempt to describe them would be utterly vain; and there I beheld not a few who had been known to me while alive.

"Greatly concerned for their hopeless state, I asked what place it was, thinking it was hell; but I was told that it was purgatory, where are kept those, who in their life had repented indeed of their sins, but had not paid the punishment due for them. I was next taken to see the torments of hell, where also I recognized some of my former acquaintances upon earth. Afterwards, I was translated to Paradise, even to the throne of the Divine Majesty; and when I saw the Lord congratulating me, I was beyond measure rejoiced, concluding of course, that I should henceforward dwell with him for evermore.

"But he presently said to me—'In very deed, my sweetest daughter, here you

shall be with me, but for the present I offer you your choice: Will you stay for ever with me now? or will you return to the earth, and there in your mortal body, but without any detriment to it, endure punishment, by which you may deliver out of purgatory, all those whose souls you so much pitied, and may also, by the sight of your penance, and the example of your life, be a means of converting to me some who are yet alive in the body, and so come again to me at last, with a great increase of your merits?"

"I accepted without hesitation the return to life on the conditions proposed, and the Lord, congratulating me on the promptitude of my obedience, ordered that my body should be restored to me. And here, I had an opportunity of admiring the incredible celerity of the blessed spirits; for in that very hour, having been placed before the throne of God at the first recital of the *Agnus Dei* in the mass which was said for me, at the third (recital) my body was restored."

"Cantepratensis then relates that during her second life (on earth) she (Christina) walked into burning ovens, and though she was so tortured by flames that her anguish extorted from her the most horrible cries, yet when she came out there was not a trace of any burning to be detected upon her body. Again, during a very hard frost, she would go out to the river and place herself under the frozen surface of the river for more than six days at a time. Sometimes she would be carried around by a water wheel and, having been whirled around in a horrible manner, she was as whole in body as if nothing had happened to her; not a limb was hurt. At other times she would make all the dogs in town fall upon her, and would run before them like a hunted beast; and yet in spite of being torn by thorns and brambles, and worried and lacerated by dogs to such a degree that no part of her body escaped without wounds, there was not a weal nor scar to be seen."

Cardinal Bellarmine then continues this story as follows: "Such," he says, "is the narrative of Cantepratensis, and that he said nothing but truth is



Copy of flame-colored Catholic picture of Purgatory with Virgin Mary coming to release some souls.

evident, not only from the confirmation given to his testimony by the Bishop and Cardinal of Vitriaco; but because **THE THING SPOKE FOR ITSELF**. It was quite plain that the body must have been endued with a divine virtue which could endure all that hers endured without being damaged; and this not for a few days, but for forty-two years, during which she continued alive after her resurrection. But still more manifest does this become from the many sinners whom she brought to penitence, and from the miracles after her death, by which she was distinguished, for God determined to stop the mouth of unbelievers."

Cardinal Bellarmine tells another story to prove that the tortures of purgatory can last to the end of time—until the Day of Judgment. He tells how the great Pope Innocent III died soon after the Fourth Lateran Council and appeared to a Saint Ludgardis:

"About this time; Pope Innocent III, after having held the Lateran Council, departed out of this life, and shortly afterwards appeared to Ludgardis. She, as soon as she beheld him encircled with a vast flame, demanded who he was; and on his answering that he was Pope Innocent, exclaimed with a groan, 'What can this be? How is it that the common father of us all is thus tormented?' 'The reasons of my suffering thus,' he answered, 'are three in number; and they would have consigned me to eternal punishments, had I not, through the intercession of the most pious mother of God, to whom I founded a monastery, repented, when in extremis. As it is, though I am spared eternal suffering, yet I shall be tortured in the most horrible manner to the day of judgment; and that I am now permitted to come and pray for your suffrages, is a boon, which the mother of mercy has obtained for me from her Son.' With these words he disappeared."

Cardinal Bellarmine writes that this story always filled him with great terror. "This instance," he says, "always affects me with the greatest terror. For if a Pontiff, entitled to so much praise, one, who to all human observation was not merely a man of integrity and prudence, but of eminent, nay, most exemplary sanctity—if even he so narrowly escaped hell, and, as it is, must suffer the most excruciating torments till the day of judgment, what prelate is there, who does not tremble?"

It would take too long to convince Catholics and Protestants alike how utterly wrong Cardinal Bellarmine is in this pagan teaching. It would take

too much space to quote all the wonderful promises, clearly written down in the Catholic New Testament as well as in the Protestant versions, assuring us that there is no condemnation after death to those who are in Christ Jesus. If Cardinal Bellarmine is right, then these glorious consoling promises in the Word of God are only a great deception. But they are there for everyone to see and believe for himself.

In the sense of purgatory as a cleansing process, there is a gospel purgatory, but one without money and without price in which everyone may be cleansed from his sins. It is not a purgatorial fire but the purgatorial fountain of Christ's blood. To this fountain all are free to go. It is open for everyone to come and be cleansed from all sin. It flows from Calvary to every spot on earth.

"Its streams the whole creation reach,
so plenteous is the store. Enough for
each, enough for evermore. In this
fountain all may wash their robes and
make them white in this precious blood
of the Lamb of God."

This cleansing fountain makes it sure that the souls of believers who have died in the Lord are now in heaven. They are absent from the body, but are present with the Lord—happy, peaceful, at rest.

"Far from a world of grief and sin,
With God eternally shut in."

Would that all Catholic people would read and believe these great assurances in their own Catholic New Testament, and not listen to their saints and theologians who deny these assurances made doubly sure on the Word of God Himself.

The Forgotten Legion

CALLING "THE POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY" *the forgotten legion*, Father Henry Bernard, C.S.C., gives the following reasons why Catholics should contribute money to have masses offered for these poor souls in Purgatory:

"To begin with, God's glory renders imperative prayers for the deceased. God longs to have the Poor Souls join in the heavenly hymns of praise sung by the Blessed; but because of the necessary requital of His offended Justice, He cannot release them until atonement has been made in full. Our prayers are one way of hastening this hour of liberation.

"The benefit of the Poor Souls themselves should also motivate our zeal for their deliverance. Though they yearn for relief, they are personally helpless in their present state. Now, as a man in financial stress naturally turns to his kin for help, so do the Poor Souls, in their plight, look up to us their near-

est kin in the universal brotherhood brought by Christ. And since we would willingly stake our last cent to keep the good name of a beloved relative, in like manner we are expected to strive to pay off the debts of our brethren in Purgatory."

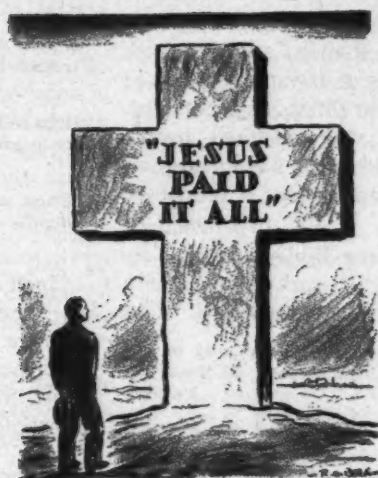
Here is restated the cruel doctrine:

1) that the countless dead in the flames of Purgatory cannot be helped by God Himself; 2) that they are "personally helpless," and can do nothing to help themselves; 3) only people on earth who can pay a price to a priest to offer a sacrifice and say prayers for these souls can help them.

This teaching surely has nothing to do with the glad tidings of the Christian gospel which assures us that Christ, by His one sacrifice on Calvary, saves to the uttermost, and that: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:1.)



Converting Catholics



"ALL OTHER GROUND IS
SINKING SAND"

THE TASK of bringing Roman Catholics to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their complete Saviour is not an easy one. Many write us for advice. Others come to our headquarters for discussion and consultation. Some come to try to persuade us, with the usual specious arguments, to return to the Roman priesthood.

The great obstacle in the way of Roman Catholics arriving at the assurance of salvation as promised in the Scriptures is the overpowering fear of the organization of the Roman Catholic Church. Having been indoctrinated with the teaching that the "Church" is the only and divinely appointed channel through which hope of salvation can come, Roman Catholics cannot easily yield in faith and trust to the merits of Christ alone.

Yet, what the New Testament clearly offers is exactly what these Roman Catholics are seeking—salvation full and free, with a guarantee of no further suffering and condemnation for sins after death. But their Church denies this is possible. When even the Catholic version of the Bible is presented to prove it, the priests will say that the Bible is merely a "dead book;" that the "living Church" is the final authority.

Thus Roman Catholics are fed on doctrines that safeguard the power of the Church, but which rob them of complete assurance of salvation. In Father Conway's *Question Box* (nearly 3,000,000 copies of which have been published and distributed) we find, on page 61, the following distorted interpretation of how Christ

saves. It says:

"Christ's Redemption did not at once blot out every sin; it merely provided the means whereby the remission of sin was made possible."

This means that all Christ did was to provide the Roman Catholic Church with the means of salvation to be used at the will of its priests and hierarchy. These priests will tell their people that God could never have made salvation so "simple," that it cannot be had complete, "to the uttermost."

Here are some Bible texts that refute this Catholic teaching of a mere half-measure of forgiveness of sins:

Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin.

Ps. 85:2

As far as the east is from the west, so

far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Ps. 103:12

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Ps. 103:11

I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jer. 31:34

I have blotted out as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud thy sins.

Isa. 44:22

Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:19

Christ's Mission's appeal to Catholics—priests and people—is to reject the mere half-measure of salvation offered them, and to turn confidently to Christ, their Saviour, who offers free, the whole, full measure.

Hungry Hearts in Japan

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Violence Against Protestants In Bolivia

'TIME' MAGAZINE of last August 22 was surprisingly frank in reporting atrocities committed recently against Protestants in the mountain village of Melcamaya, Bolivia, where seven Baptists and their missionary leader, Norman Dabbs, were murdered. It did not hesitate to state that this was the "evil fruit" of the teaching of Bolivia's Roman Catholic clergy against Protestantism.

Twenty Canadian Baptist missionaries, *Time* reported, "have spread goods works across the barrens of the windswept *altiplano*." For the poverty-stricken Bolivian miners they have built schools and hospitals, given out free medicine, and taught their converts to speak Spanish and English. But the Roman Catholic clergy resent this help and teach the Indian miners that Protestants are "messengers of the devil." They warn educated Bolivians that American Protestant missionaries are the "advance agents of Yankee imperialism."

Time relates the murder of the Baptist missionary Norman Dabbs and seven of his flock as follows:

"In a convert's home in the mountain village of Melcamaya, Baptist Missionary Norman Dabbs was holding a Bible class. When 300 drunken Indians began to stone the house, Dabbs and 40 terrified converts tried to escape in a truck. The Indians cut across a dry river bed, intercepted the truck, laid about with sticks and stones. When they had finished, Norman Dabbs and seven Bolivian Baptists lay dead."

Protestants have been more than generous in giving support and sympathy to the Catholic Church because of the action of Communist governments against its higher clergy in Catholic countries behind the Iron Curtain, although the Catholic people there are not deprived of freedom of worship. It is not too much to ask that the Catholic Church, in turn, call a halt to violent persecution of Protestants in the predominantly Catholic countries of Latin America and elsewhere.

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THE POPE AND LABOR UNIONS

SPEAKING by radio last September 4, to the National Congress of German Catholics at Bochum, Pope Pius XII described the existence of labor unions as a kind of necessary evil, that they are necessary because of "defects of the economic system until now existing and, above all, to the lack of Christian mentality." He declared that it was the aim of the Roman Catholic Church to bring it about so that "the apparent contradictions between capital and labor

should be transformed into a superior unity, that is, into that organic co-operation of the two parts, wanted by nature itself."

The real meaning behind such papal utterances is never easy to get from the wording of the official texts. In this instance the 'plain English' of the above pronouncement was reported by Arnaldo Cortesi, Rome correspondent of the N. Y. Times, as explained to him by Vatican officials, as follows: "The Pope made it clear, they said, that the Church's efforts were not against labor unions but against the conditions that oblige workers to fight in defense of their rights. *Such conditions, they added, can be remedied only by a general acceptance of Roman Catholic principles of justice and Christian charity.*"

Here again is the bid of the Roman Catholic Church to be the dominating force, not only in religious and politi-

cal affairs, but in economic and social affairs as well.

In his talk to the German workers, the Pope also defended the decree of excommunication against Communists issued last July by the Congregation of the Holy Office. It did not mean, he said, that the Vatican had taken sides with Capitalism against Labor. "The decree has nothing to do," he declared, "with the contrast between poor and rich, capitalists and proletarians, owners and those who have no property." For it must be remembered that the Catholic Church has never condemned Communism as such, but what it calls "atheistic" Communism. It straddles the fence on the economic issues between Communism and Capitalism, and will thus be free to choose sides when the opportune time comes.

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

WHILE THE WORLD seethes with trouble and rumors of war, Roman Catholic theologians are locked in deadly combat over the question of *gelatin*! Is it a mortal sin or not to eat gelatin on Fridays? That is the question.



In an article in the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, a magazine especially for priests, Rev. Martin S. Welsh, a priest of

the Dominican Order, holds that a certain type of gelatin is certainly made up of the meat of warmblooded animals, and hence cannot be eaten on Fridays.

As reported in the *Catholic Regis-*

The Converted Catholic Magazine

ter, this theologian holds that the matter should be judged by "the actual collection of animal substances that are subjected to the process of continual boiling and which result in the formation of gelatin." This product he definitely declares to be "an extract of boiled meat."

Other reputable theologians disagree, however, and declare that gelatin is not made from the *flesh* of animals, but from their "bone, cartilage, and white fibrous tissue."

What then are the Roman Catholic people to do, since their theologians cannot agree whether or not it is a mortal sin to eat gelatin on Fridays? They can fall back on the theological principle that, "Where there is doubt there is liberty." And so, while their theologians continue to fight over the matter, the people may eat gelatin on Fridays with a good conscience.

SOME CATHOLIC FACTS

MSGR. L. G. LIGUTTI, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, revealed some interesting facts about the condition of religion in South America and Catholic rural life in the United States at a Rural Life Institute for seminarians at Burlington, Vt., during the last week of August.

Recently returned from a 10-week visit to South America, Msgr. Ligutti admitted, according to the N. Y. Times of August 29, that the status of religion in Brazil is "terrible." The Catholic population of Brazil is 40,000,000, he declared, and noted that there were only 6,000 priests in the entire country, and only half of these 6,000 priests are native-born Brazilians.

In his keynote address to the Institute, Msgr.



Ligutti, as reported in the N.Y. Times of August 30, pointed out that only five per cent of Roman Cath-

olics in the United States live on farms; only 5,000 of the 70,000 villages in the country are served by a Catholic priest, and of the 150,000 rural churches of all faiths in the United States, only 10,000 are Roman Catholic and most of these are very small.

Msgr. Ligutti severely criticized the large Roman Catholic parishes in the large cities of the United States. He called them "efficiently-run sacramental filling stations," with a "total lack of social unity." He estimated that "perhaps 60 per cent of the Roman Catholics in New York City miss mass on Sunday mornings."

Up till now, the power of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States has been concentrated in the cities. Msgr. Ligutti heads the movement, founded in 1922, to colonize rural America with Roman Catholics. It is realized that the plan to "Make America Catholic" will never succeed as long as Roman Catholics constitute such a very small proportion of the population of the vast rural world of America.

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PROTESTANTS NOT FREE IN ITALY

REPORTS recently coming in from Italy indicate increasing hostility against Protestants there.

A dispatch from Rome to the *Chicago Daily Tribune* of last Aug. 4, tells of the arrest of a 30-year-old Baptist pastor while conducting services at San Gregorio Magno, 50 miles southeast of Salerno. The Protestant pastor, Guiseppe Gasbarro, was released a week later upon the condition "that he would not resume his religious activities." Baptist authorities protested this condition, and Gasbarro was then freed unconditionally, according to this report.

Also in the July 5 issue of *Firm Foundation*, a report from Missionary Cline R. Paden in Monte Compatri in Italy tells of violent interference in Protestant meetings. In order to hold an open-air meeting in the city, permission had to be obtained both from the local police and from the Prefect's office in Rome.

When word got around that the Protestant open-air meeting was to be conducted, the Catholics started to hold a procession, carrying their Madonna and other statues through the streets. The men and women carried bricks and stones, and some of the men carried long knives. According to the report, the priests of the city excited the people against the Protestants. The report adds: "When the priests told them that they would give them the special blessings of St. Antonio if they would do away with the Protestants, they went wild." Stones

were thrown and many Protestants were hurt. A bomb was exploded and a 13-year-old boy was severely injured.

There is great confusion with regard to freedom of religion for Protestants in Italy. This comes from the fact that the agreement between the Pope and Mussolini, made in 1929, still remains in force. The Baptist pastor above was arrested under a Fascist law based upon that Vatican agreement with Mussolini, although the new republican regime now in Italy guarantees religious freedom to all.

From Pagan To Papal Rome

HOW PAPAL ROME took over the beliefs and practices of paganism is well described by Mourant Brock in his book, *Rome, Pagan and Papal* (published in London, 1883, by Hodder & Stoughton, pp. 25, 26):

"In the transition from pagan to papal Rome much of the old material was worked up. The heathen temples became Christian churches; the altars of the gods, altars of the saints; the curtains, incense, tapers, votive tablets, remained the same; the 'aquaminiarium' was still the vessel for holy water; St. Peter stood at the gate, instead of Cardea; St. Roque or St. Sebastian in the bedroom, instead of the 'Phrygian Pates'; St. Nicholas was the sign of the vessel, instead of Castor and Pollux; the *Matre Deum* became the Madonna; 'alms pro *Matre Deum*' became also for Madonna; the Festival of the *Matre Deum*, the Festival of the Madonna or Lady Day; the 'hostia,' or victim, was now the host; the 'Iugentes Campi' or dismal region, purgatory; the offerings to the 'manes' were masses for the dead."

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach (Acts 1:1).

PHYSICIAN LUKE is claimed to have written the most detailed account of Christ's life in the third Gospel which bears his name. And here in the first part of *Acts*—Luke's further story of Christianity—he records what Jesus continued to do through the Holy Spirit after His ascension.

The small word 'began' (*Acts* 1:1) is a pivotal point in the Evangelical interpretation of the Bible. For if all the works of Christ were completely recorded in the Gospels, then it would be safe to assume that Christ's ministry was confined to His thirty-three years on earth.

Praise God, that is not true. "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever*" (*Heb.* 13:8). His ministry is still operative in the world today. We only have to come to Him by faith, as the believers did when He trod the earth.

Luke's Gospel is replete with the account of Christ's divine demonstrations—casting out of demons, healing

Yesterday, Today And Forever

By E. VAN BÜSKIRK

of a leper, raising up Jairus' daughter and stilling the tempest. Luke also stresses the 'human-ness' of Christ by giving His genealogy, a detailed account of the Virgin Mary and His infancy and boyhood. The Key Verse of Luke's Gospel is: "*For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (*Luke* 19:10).

But the Christ of Luke's time is the same Christ of our time. Today He can still the tempest of our soul by His Word "*Peace, Be Still.*" Today Christ will heal our leperous soul with His "*Be thou clean . . . Go and sin no more . . . Thy faith hath made thee whole.*"

On the day of Christ's Ascension, our faith was not left in the hands of human men as the Roman Catholic Church teaches. We need not look to a human priest to intercede with God for us. Christ is our living Saviour, our living Advocate, and our living, loving Redeemer.

Rejoice then, O Christian!

He lives, Christ Jesus lives today,
He walks with me and talks with me,
Along life's narrow way;
He lives, salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart.





Twin Dictatorships

Catholicism Co

SYSTEM OF THE 'TWO POWERS'

"**THE ALMIGHTY,**" says Pope Leo XIII (*Ency. Christian Constitution of States*), "has appointed the charge of the human race between two powers, the ecclesiastical and the civil, the one being set over divine, and the other over human things."

By the "ecclesiastical" power Pope Leo means exclusively the Roman Catholic Church, which is further claimed to be superior to the other power, that of the State, since it rules over spiritual things. "In cases of direct contradiction, making it impossible for both jurisdictions to be exercised," says the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, "the jurisdiction of the Church prevails, and that of the State is excluded."

This system of the "Two Powers"—of Pope and Emperor—was the basis of authority in the Western

world from the time of Emperor Constantine till after the Reformation and the rise of liberal democratic governments, when power descended to the people. For the past three centuries papal encyclicals have bitterly denounced this shift of power and the new principles that came with it—freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech, press and, particularly, separation of Church and State. These papal denunciations of democratic freedoms are found particularly in the encyclicals *Mirari Vos* of Pope Gregory XVI, *Immortale Dei* of Pope Leo XIII, *Quanta Cura* and the *Syllabus of Errors* of Pope Pius IX, and

Communism

By L. H. LEHMANN

Pope Pius XI's *Quas Primas* and *Ubi Arcano*. Pope Gregory went so far as to denounce these new freedoms as "*deliramentum*" (madness). Pope Leo XIII, in his encyclical *Humanum Genus* (against Freemasonry), lists and condemns all the principles of the new democratic freedoms.

Fear was had for the loss of the power of both "Throne and Altar." Protestants and Masons were then regarded as the great enemies of the Catholic Church, since their principles of the new freedoms in Church and State threatened to undermine the structure of Roman Catholic power, as well as the power of the monarchies. The Jesuits strove hard and used every means to push back this tide of Protestantism and democratic freedoms. They were aided by the papal encyclicals mentioned above, which condemned Protestantism and Masonry as the work of the devil. But expedient compromises were found which enabled the Roman Catholic



Church to continue to exist, and even flourish, in Protestant, democratic countries. It succeeded best in the United States, where it was placed on an equal footing with other religions, and although it resented this mere equality with others, it was necessary to accept it for the time being, so as to enjoy the freedom and liberty that went with it.

This expedient compromise with the new order of democratic freedoms was shrewdly expounded by Pope Leo XIII. Although he called it "a grave injustice" to the Roman Catholic Church to place it on the same level with heretical sects, he added: *"If the Church declares that the various kinds of worship should not have the same rights as the true religion, she does not thereby condemn those rulers who, in order to secure some great good, or to avert some evil, permit each cult to exist."*

Now has come the deluge—the invasion of Eastern Europe by Communism, which has engulfed a block of nations containing a total population of more than thirty-five million Roman Catholics. In Italy itself, outside the Iron Curtain, more than two million are Communist party members, and in the free elections there in April, 1948, more than one-third of the electorate voted pro-Communist. With the possibility of the universal spread of Communism the Vatican is faced, as never before, with the threat of destruction to the entire structure of the Catholic Church in Europe. It must either fight Communism to the death, or combine with it.

TWIN TOTALITARIANISMS

The titanic struggle between the Vatican and the Kremlin highlights the similarities between them as systems of government. Both are totalitarian powers—one in the spiritual, the other in the social sphere—each claiming a universal doctrine and a monolithic unity, each having a rigid discipline, self-sacrificing missionaries, an inquisition, an espionage system, and claiming the right to impose the supreme penalty for any heretical divergence from dictated teachings and practices. The Vatican uncovered its power when, on last July 13, it issued its thunder of excommunication against Communism, thus affecting Catholicism's world membership of 330 million.

Following is a list of the essential features of Communism. Its regime:

- 1.—rules by a caucus and a dictator whose word is law that cannot be disputed;
- 2.—imposes one universal teaching on all;
- 3.—condemns as heretical any deviation from this dictated teaching;
- 4.—exercises 'thought-control' as well as control of action over its subjects;
- 5.—demands blind obedience to its dictates;
- 6.—crushes out all minority opinions as soon as its engineered majority opinion gains power;
- 7.—has its own inquisition and secret espionage system;
- 8.—restricts knowledge of its teachings;
- 9.—has its index of forbidden books;
- 10.—applies the death penalty for recalcitrants who oppose its dictates and decrees;
- 11.—claims entire control of education of youth;

12.—holds that equal economic prosperity for all can be attained only by recourse to these forceful means.

These Communist methods of attaining an ideal condition of material well-being for all mankind are similar to those long in force in the Roman Catholic Church—with the purpose of converting the whole world to its brand of Christianity. For the Roman Catholic Church has always aimed at the attainment of a great ideal—to bring to reality Saint Augustine's dream of this world as the "City of God." But those who set up its policies from the beginning were convinced that this ideal could never be attained by leaving individuals free to choose their own way. Its success would depend upon the establishment of one universal church ruled by an ecclesiastical dictatorship.

In fact, all modern dictatorships, both Fascist and Communist, have imitated the principles and methods of Roman Catholic organization. Hitler realized the need for this early in his career. In his *Mein Kampf* he urged his Nazi followers to imitate the Roman Catholic Church in many ways, but particularly its intolerance of all rivals, and the dictatorial control of the masses of the people. Instructing his Nazis how to build their organization, he says (p. 485, Reynal & Hitchcock ed.):

"Here, too, one can learn from the Catholic Church. Although its structure of doctrines in many instances collides, quite unnecessarily, with exact science and research, yet it is unwilling to sacrifice even one little syllable of its dogmas. It has rightly recognized that its resistibility does not lie in a more or less great adjustment to the scientific results of the moment, which

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in reality are always changing, but rather in a strict adherence to dogmas, once laid down, which alone give the entire structure the character of creed."

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF CATHOLICISM

Roman Catholicism had the twelve essential features of Communist organization listed above long before Marx and Lenin appeared on the scene:

1. *It is ruled by an infallible pope (spiritual dictator) in consultation with the College of Cardinals. The pope appoints the cardinals who, in turn, elect the pope whose word then is absolute law that cannot be disputed.*

The pope in himself possesses, says Prof. D. A. Binchy, in his book, *Church and State in Italy* (p. 236), "the plenitude of legislative, executive and judicial power," which he can exercise on his own initiative, even without consultation with the cardinals.

2. *Its teaching is imposed by dogmatic decrees which cannot be changed or modified, and which are binding on all under pain of eternal damnation.*

After a pope infallibly pronounces a point of dogmatic teaching, it becomes fixed and irrevocable as a part of the eternal truth of God. The Catholic people have no voice in establishing such teaching. As Hilaire Belloc, authoritative British Catholic spokesman, puts it (*The Contrast*, p. 160): "For the Catholic, it is not he

himself, it is the Church which alone can discover, decide and affirm."

3. *It condemns as heretics all who teach any doctrine that is opposed to, or deviates from that laid down by papal or conciliar decrees.*

Heresy, according to the Catholic Church's viewpoint, is a worse crime than treason to one's country, since it threatens the absolute power of its hierarchial organization. To believe or teach, for instance, that complete salvation can be had by faith in Christ's all-sufficient sacrifice on Calvary, destroys the whole foundation of the Catholic priesthood. This is the great 'heresy' of Protestantism as started by Martin Luther.

4. *It controls the thoughts and actions of its vast membership.*

Not only are the Catholic people indoctrinated by their catechism as to what they must believe and do, but they must confess their most secret thoughts to the priest in the confession box. Although the Catholic Church claims absolute power only in spiritual and moral matters, there is nothing in the conduct of man's life, public and private, that has not its "moral aspect." Even voting in political elections involves moral issues, and thus priests have a duty to instruct Catholic voters on the official attitude of the Catholic Church on such issues. In the confession box, the minds of the Catholic people are formed and directed on all matters of daily life and conduct.

5. *It requires undisputed obedience from its members.*

The slave submission of Fascist and Communist party members to the dictates of their superiors is in imitation

of the famous dictum of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, concerning "corpse obedience." He laid it down that those in subjection should allow themselves to be disposed of at the will of their superior, "like a corpse permits one to turn and handle it in any way one pleases."

6. *No minority or private opinion is allowed in Roman Catholic teaching after a dogmatic decree is issued on any point of doctrine or morals.*

Once the pope speaks the case is finished, and further discussions or doubts become heretical.

7. *The Roman Catholic Church originated the Inquisition as a terroristic method of enforcing its teachings and discovering heretics.*

Although the tortures of the Roman Inquisition are no longer practiced, the "Holy Office of the Inquisition" still exists in Rome.

8. *Like Communism and Fascism, the Roman Catholic Church forbids its members to inquire into or study the teachings of its rivals.*

The reading even of Protestant versions of the Bible is strictly forbidden to Roman Catholics. It is also sinful for Catholics to take part in Protestant worship, or to contribute money for Protestant causes, even toward the upkeep of Salvation Army shelters.

9. *Censorship and burning of heretical books is an old Roman Catholic custom.*

By its *Index Purgatorius*, specified books critical of Catholic teachings are forbidden. But all books and writings critical of the Catholic Church, and all those containing any defense of 'heresy,' are also banned. No priest can publish any book or tract without the *Imprimatur* of his

bishop and *Nilil Obstat* of the diocesan board of censors. Local bishops today do most of the banning of books. In 1942, Cardinal Villeneuve of Montreal, for instance, ordered his Catholic people to burn Protestant Bibles and tracts that were being distributed in their homes.

10. *The Catholic Church still claims the right in principle to impose the death penalty for heresy, although it has abandoned the exercise of this right in modern times.*

This claim was defended by the Catholic Brooklyn *Tablet* in its issue for November 5, 1938. The argument used is that the Catholic Church is a "perfect society" and has the same right to defend its existence against its enemies as the civil state has against traitors.

11. *The sole right to educate all, both outside as well as inside its membership, is claimed by the Roman Catholic Church.*

This was clearly restated by the late Pope Pius XI in his encyclical

On the Education of Youth, December, 1929.

12. *The Roman Catholic Church is sincere in its desire and efforts to establish one universal Church as the only means by which all mankind would not only secure eternal salvation in the next life, but also arrive at universal peace and harmony and a war-less world on this earth.*

But it insists that this 'One Church in One World' can only be the Church of Rome under the spiritual dictatorship of the Pope. Communism likewise has as its aim the establishment of a 'One World' of peace and material prosperity by means of its 'dictatorship of the proletariat.'

Catholicism and Communism are thus rival absolutisms, which accounts for the fierceness of the struggle now being waged between them. Will they fight it out to a finish till one or the other is destroyed, or will they find it to their mutual self-interest eventually to collaborate?



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► **POPE PIUS XII** was reported as having followed the controversy between Cardinal Spellman and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and as stating that he thought the controversy was "resolved satisfactorily."

► **COMMUNISTS** in Italy are said to have decreased by more than 20% during the last year, according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last Sept. 2. "The total dropped from a maximum of 2,272,000 on May 31 of last year to 1,780,000 on June of this year," the report stated. The decree of excommunication against Communists last July is said to have been one cause of the decline. Another was the purge of 'Titoist' elements by the party itself. The report added that the Communist party "officially continues to claim 2,000,000 members."

► **MOST EMBARRASSING** to Roman Catholic leaders in the fierce controversy over Federal aid to parochial schools is Representative Andrew Jacobs of Indiana. He is a devout Roman Catholic in favor of parochial schools, but clear and vociferous in opposing any use of public funds for their support. He puts the case thus: "*The issue is clear. Either you keep parochial schools and maintain them, or take public funds and convert them into public schools, and they will then no longer serve the religious purpose for which they were established.*"

► **A PETITION** has been made to the Pope by the Catholic Rural Life Conference for permission "to translate certain rural blessings into English," according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last Sept. 1. Catholic farmers will thus be able to understand what the priest says when he blesses crops and cows.

► **'SODALISTS,'** members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary, Jesuit-directed world organization, number eight million.

► **DISTRIBUTION** of partial and complete Bibles by the United Bible Societies increased from 14,000,000 copies in 1947 to 17,500,000 in 1948, according to a report last June 9 to delegates of the organization from 19 countries. It was also reported that 25,000 Russian New Testaments, 100,000 Bibles and 500,000 Gospels were ready for shipment to Russia but were not yet authorized for entry.

► **A DELEGATION** of 70 Americans sailed for Rome last August 2 to lay the cornerstone for a \$2,000,000 Memorial to American soldiers who died in the battle of Monte Cassino. The Memorial will be an orphanage and school for Italian children in that district.

► **BISHOP John Buchko**, in a letter from Rome to the N. Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 3, claims that the entire Ukrainian (Roman) Catholic Church has now been dissolved and incorporated into the Russian Orthodox Church under the Patriarch of Moscow.

► **SLANDER SUITS** have been filed in Rome by the Catholic Church against two newspapers because they alleged that the Church "sold marriage annulments," according to a U. P. dispatch from Vatican City last Aug. 4. The answer given by Vatican sources was that: "*The Rota does not grant annulments, but can only decide in certain cases that a marriage is invalid and therefore does not exist.*" What then is an annulment?

► **MSGR. FULTON J. SHEEN** returned to the U. S. last Aug. 29, after a one-month visit to seven European countries. On arrival at the airport in New York, according to the N.Y. Times, he reported that he had found "an increasing rejection of Communism throughout Europe," with the Soviet Union definitely losing its outposts in France, Italy and Belgium. Danger of war, he said, threatened from two quarters: "An act of war by the Soviets, who are undoubtedly preparing for it, and a passing wish for war among certain peoples of satellite countries who feel that, unless America saves them, war is their only hope."

► **POPE PIUS XII** is expected to create new cardinals at a Consistory in December, according to a Rome dispatch in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 29. The College of Cardinals now numbers fifty-five, which is fifteen short of the maximum of seventy.

► **COSTA RICA'S** new Constitution makes Roman Catholicism the official State religion.

► **ALBANIA'S** Orthodox Archbishop Christopher Kissi was deposed by the synod of the Albanian Orthodox Church last August, according to an AP report in the N.Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 29. He was accused by the synod of "activity in favor of Fascism during the Italian occupation, with the view of throwing our church into the bosom of the Vatican."

► **JAPAN'S** POPULATION increased 1,700,000 during 1948, a new record. This was announced by the Welfare Ministry in Tokyo last May 8, which added that the death rate also dropped to a history-making low. The suggestion to legalize birth control in Japan was condemned by Catholic authorities in Rome as "barbarous," according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last July 2.

► **NUNS** are now being taught dancing at Fordham (Jesuit) University under the direction of Father Leo Wobido. Two picture spreads in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 18, showed a group of sisters "swirling in admirable cadence." The report added: "They moved gracefully in the black, brown and white habits of their orders and danced with all the verve that the rhythm required." Father Wobido's comment: "Some of them are really cuckoo about it. I know I am myself."

► **A YOUNG MAN** committed suicide by leaping from the dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome last Aug. 29. As a result, the Basilica, according to liturgical custom, was declared desecrated and closed till the ceremony of reconsecration was performed—by pouring oil on the altar near where the body fell.

► **SPEAKING** before the supreme convention of the Knights of Columbus in Portland, Ore., last Aug. 6, Senator J. Howard McGrath, newly appointed U. S. Attorney General, called on all Catholics to rise up as a "Church Militant" to battle for Christianity and democracy. "If the sword is too short," he declared, "stay close to thine enemy."

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► **VATICAN OFFICIALS** have issued a "Welcome-to-Rome" set of postage and express stamps for the 'Holy Year' of 1950.

► **CLAIM** is made by the Knights of Columbus that their ads explaining Roman Catholic doctrine and practice in magazines in the U. S. and Canada since January, 1948, have brought 304,470 requests for further information from non-Catholics. It is also claimed that 20,397 non-Catholics have enrolled for correspondence courses in Catholic doctrine as a result of the ads, and that 350,000 free booklets have been mailed to inquirers.

► **THE GIDEONS** plan to distribute 25,000,000 New Testaments among the nation's school children, Leslie N. Allen, assignment secretary announced last August 21, at the First Moravian Episcopal Church in New York. In the past three years the Gideons have distributed more than 4,200,000 copies of their special edition to school children. Catholic priests object to distribution of Gideon Bibles to children in the public schools, although permission is first obtained from the school authorities and the parents of the children.

► **A NEW TOTAL** of 79,576,352 church members in the U. S. was announced last Aug. 21 by the 'Christian Herald.' This was for the end of the year 1948, and showed a gain of 2,190,164 over the previous year. The percentages claimed were: 60% Protestant, 33% Roman Catholic, 6% Jewish and 1% small groups.

► **SEPARATION** of Church and State is a "shibboleth," and not a part of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, Archbishop J. Francis A. McIntyre of Los Angeles recently declared, according to the Catholic 'Register' of last Aug. 21.

► **HERE IS PROOF** that Protestantism is not dead, at least as far as church attendance is concerned. At the recent opening of the new Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio, built by Pastor Billington, whose congregation numbers well over a hundred thousand people, more than 6,000 persons visited the new church on its Dedication Day.

► **THE NEW** Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, is a Roman Catholic.

► **THREE** former Roman Catholics were among thirteen adults recently confirmed by Pastor Walter L. Wang of (Lutheran) Hope Church in Wheaton, Minn., according to the 'Lutheran Herald' of last Aug. 16.

► **FORMER** Communist spy courier, Elizabeth T. Bentley, has been appointed to teach political science at Mundelein College, a Catholic girls' school near Chicago. Miss Bentley was baptized a Roman Catholic by Monsignor Sheen last November. Louis Budenz, self-confessed Communist for 10 years and now a professor of history at (Jesuit) Fordham University, was present at her baptism.

► **A JESUIT PRIEST** is said to have freed a 14-year old boy from an evil spirit, using the ancient Catholic rite of exorcism, according to a UP dispatch of last Aug. 20. The boy was handed over to the Jesuits in Washington, D. C., by a Lutheran minister and was baptized a Roman Catholic before the rites were performed on him—20 to 30 times, over a period of two months, it was said.

► **SIXTY-TWO** Catholic priests in Poland were indicted by the government for violating its recent decree guaranteeing "protection of conscience and religion," according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 15. In this way Poland, like other Catholic-Communist countries of Eastern Europe, forces priests to administer the rites of the Catholic religion to all who ask for them, in spite of the Vatican's decree of excommunication against Communists and their supporters.

► **ANOTHER** miracle of a 'weeping statue' was reported from Warsaw, Poland, in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Aug. 26, this time in a Russian Orthodox church. Previously a picture of the Virgin Mary was said to have wept in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Lublin.

► **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** proposed last August 18, that all countries that have attacked religious leaders be purged from the U.N.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made at this writing for three former Roman Catholic priests to enter Westminster Theological Seminary in Bloomfield, N. J., this fall to prepare for the Presbyterian ministry.

One of these is Rev. Michael Giansiracusa, who was a priest of the Franciscan Order for twelve years in his native Italy. He came to New York about two years ago and officiated as a priest at St. Anthony's Monastery on Sullivan Street, New York City, before his resignation from the priesthood. He taught for many years in high schools and Catholic colleges in Italy, and for a year at the University of Naples.

In spite of the many years of philosophical and theological training that priests undergo in preparation for ordination, they are not fitted when they leave the priesthood to begin at once to preach the Gospel and become Protestant ministers. A period of Bible study in some Protestant seminary is necessary. Christ's Mission is helping to finance Mr. Giansiracusa's courses at Bloomfield Seminary, but it is only through the contributions of our friends and readers that it is possible for us to help former priests in this way.

Three More Converted Priests



Rev. Michael Giansiracusa

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Another Catholic In Truman's Cabinet

THE NEW U. S. Attorney General, J. Howard McGrath, chosen by President Truman to succeed Tom Clark, is a prominent Roman Catholic. He has been Governor of Rhode Island and Senator, and is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

He is the eleventh Roman Catholic to hold Cabinet office, and the fifth Roman Catholic Attorney General. Another Roman Catholic, Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana, was appointed Attorney General by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, but died before he took office. Attorney General and Postmaster General have been the favorite Cabinet posts for Roman Catholics. Five have also been Postmaster General.

The other Roman Catholic at present in Truman's Cabinet is Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor. The present Secretary of the Navy, Francis P. Matthews, is also a Roman Catholic, but does not hold Cabinet rank.

More 'Mixed Marriage' Tangle

FURTHER CONFUSION has been created with regard to mixed marriages in the Catholic Church as a result of the Vatican's decree last July excommunicating Communists and active Communist sympathizers.

The Congregation of the Holy Office (of the Inquisition) last August 16, back-stepped somewhat by permitting excommunicated Catholic Communists to be married by a priest—provided that one party to the marriage is not a Communist. Permission must be obtained from the bishop, and the marriage can only be performed in the priest's house, not in the church nor with a Mass.

Such marriages are to be regarded as 'mixed marriages,' the same as between a Catholic and a Protestant, and the same mixed marriage contracts must be signed obliging both parents to bring up all their children in the Roman Catholic religion. The motive behind this extraordinary decree, according to the N. Y. Times' report, was the fear that, "if all marriages of Communists were indiscriminately barred, many potentially religious children would be driven away from the Church."

These strange Catholic 'mixed marriages' will be allowed when only one party is an excommunicated Communist. It is surmised that any Communist who would marry a Catholic in this way would be a weak Communist. On the other hand, if two avowed Communists were allowed to marry before the priest, there would be little chance that they would keep the contracts to bring up their children Roman Catholics.

Catholic Victory In Germany

TOP PLACE in the elections for the new German Republic last August 14 was won by the Christian Democratic Union, which is the Catholic-controlled political party in the Western zones. It polled 31 per cent of the total vote, the Social Democrats (Socialists) coming second with 29.4 per cent.

Other 'Rightist' parties, such as the Free Democrats (11.9 per cent), the neo-fascist Bavarian party and the German party (5.8 per cent), owed their unexpected success also to the Catholic issue injected into the campaign, and were expected to join in a majority coalition with the Catholic Christian Democrats.

In Italy, Belgium and Holland, and now in Germany, the Catholic Church has been successful in coalescing political forces into majorities for control of the new postwar governments in Europe. Protestants form a relatively small percentage of European

countries as a whole, and in Germany the smaller number of those in the Russian zone of occupation are Protestants. This has considerably increased the Catholic percentage in the three Allied zones of Germany. Of the nearly fifty million Germans in the three zones, 50 per cent are now Roman Catholics.

Protestants in Germany and other European countries are unable to exert any major political influence by themselves in the formation of the new postwar governments. They are caught between the Communists on one side and the Catholics on the other. They tend to side with the Catholic forces as the lesser of two evils.

Thus it looks as if the fate of this new German Republic will be in the hands of the Catholic Church, even more so than was the case with the ill-fated Weimar Republic after the first World War.

Facts About The Philippines

ROMAN CATHOLICS comprise 80% of the population of the Philippine Islands, the other 20%

being divided among Protestants, Independent Catholics, Moslems and pagans.

Back from a two-month preaching tour in the Philippines, Stanton Lautenschlager recently reported in the *Presbyterian Tribune* that there are about a million Protestants in the islands, and that several of the larger Protestant denominations have joined together to form the "United Evangelical Church of the Philippines." The number of Evangelical (Protestant) schools has nearly doubled since the war, and are attended by many hundreds of Roman Catholics. Dr. Lautenschlager further reports that the influence of the Evangelical Church is "far greater than its numerical strength" and that there are now Philippine Protestant leaders in government, in business, in industry and every branch of education and social reform.

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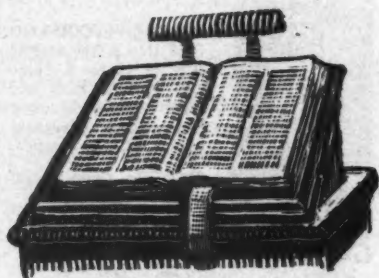
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What Jesus Christ Now

Means To Me



By WILLIAM E. BURKE

"Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but with the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:18, 19).

FOR TEN YEARS I strove as a Roman Catholic priest to obtain eternal salvation for myself and those committed to my care by practicing and teaching that salvation is a moral process, that the sinner is made just, or "works out" his salvation, by his own deeds. Now as a converted priest at Christ's Mission, I believe and teach that salvation is by grace through faith alone.

As a priest I was obliged to believe the teaching of the Council of Trent: *"If any one saith that the good works of one that is justified are in such a manner the gifts of God, that they are not also the good merits of him who*

is justified . . . let him be anathema!" (Sess. 6, Can. 32).

According to this teaching, the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church are the instrumental cause of justification. Thus the grace purchased by Christ's death cannot flow to the sinner direct. It can flow only from the hands of the Roman Catholic priest, through the channels of the sacraments. The salvation of the sinner is thus made dependent upon the reception of the sacraments from the hands of priests. As a priest I was thus an important factor in the Roman Catholic plan of salvation. The people depended upon me to keep grace

flowing to them through the sacramental channels, and to help the souls in purgatory by offering the sacrifice of the mass, for which I received stipends.

I became disillusioned, for I failed to find that these seven sacraments made any deep spiritual change either in myself or in those committed to my care. I was not the first priest to reach this dead-end street of Roman Catholicism. Luther and countless thousands of other Roman Catholic priests found this out before me, and today an increasing number of priests, led by the Holy Spirit, are brought to

the realization that in the Gospel is revealed the righteousness which avails with God—a righteousness by which God in His mercy and compassion justifies us, as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

I have now found peace of soul in the assurance of salvation by the finished work of Christ. But I feel sad to think that my former Church still rejects the doctrine of justification by faith alone, and thus denies its people this full assurance of salvation by the finished work of Christ.

I am positive that Christ's work as Saviour is complete, that it does not

"I am not worthy of all Thy Mercies"

THANKSGIVING brings to memory the endless stream of blessing and lovingkindness which the Lord has showed upon us as Christians. Like Jacob of old we are compelled to cry out, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant".

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need to be supplemented by the work of man. No work of man can add to its infinite worth. Christ on Calvary declared: "*It is finished*" (John 19: 30), and Paul declares: "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus* (Rom. 8:1). Salvation, in the Christian teaching, is wholly by grace from its first inception to its final consummation: "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast*" (Eph. 2: 8, 9).

On the part of the sinner all that is required is repentance and faith (Matt. 4:17, Acts 16:31). But these acts on the part of the sinner cannot be regarded as conditions of merit. For there is only one meritorious cause of the sinner's salvation, and that is the substitutionary work of Christ. By His redemptive work, Christ has purchased for His people the full and free pardon of all their sins for time and for eternity. He forgives both the guilt and punishment: "*In whom we have redemption through his blood,*

even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1: 14).

The most important doctrine of Evangelical Christianity is that of justification by faith. Luther called it "*the article of a standing or falling church*." The principal aim of the Council of Trent was the repression of this doctrine, since it was the central teaching of the Reformation. It was opposed to the entire system of the theology and ritual of the Church of Rome. Thus the Council of Trent affirmed that: "*If anyone shall say that justifying faith is nothing else than a trust in the divine mercy remitting sin for Christ's sake, or that it is faith alone by which we are justified, let him be anathema*" (Sess. 6, Can. 12). But these decrees denied the Scripture teaching, "*that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ*" (Gal. 2:16). And again: "*Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him*" (Rom. 5: 9).

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As I now view Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation, I see that the Roman Catholic people are deprived of the true teaching about Christ as Saviour. The Roman Catholic is not justified by faith; for the faith required of him by the priest is belief in the teachings of the church. He is not justified by grace; for with the aid of the priest, he must work his own way to heaven. Nor is he justified freely; for he must pay a price in money and good works for all the benefits he receives. And in the end he must pay the balance of the debt he owes to God in purgatory. He is told that this balance of purgatorial debt can be diminished by giving a priest stipends to offer masses for his suffering soul in purgatory. But this teaching removes the Roman Catholic from the knowledge of the great atoning work of Christ in its all-sufficiency. It fosters the natural spirit of self-righteousness which clings to a salvation obtainable by works. Finally it exalts and enhances the power of the priesthood through whose hands alone the benefits of such a justification can flow to the people.

I rejoice that I have now come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as my perfect Saviour. I also rejoice because of the opportunities now afforded me to preach that full and free salvation by Christ alone.

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily" (Col. 1:28, 29).

Leakage In Peter's Barque

WE READ a lot in newspapers and elsewhere of the large number of Protestants who become Roman Catholics. Seldom do we read or hear of the vast number of Roman Catholics who break with their Church. This leakage is very great, but does not show up in statistics of Roman Catholic Church membership.

There is one Roman Catholic priest who has made it his life's work to examine and analyze this leakage in his own parish. He is Father Thomas F. Coakley, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. In the April, 1949, issue of the Catholic Magazine *Information*, Father Coakley has an article entitled "Leakage in Peter's Barque." He opens his article as follows:

"In our concern for converts, we sometimes forget that Catholics are slipping out the back door faster than God permits us to bring in new candidates by the front door."

The latest issue of the official *Catholic Directory* claims more than 26,000,000 Roman Catholics in the United States. But this figure includes not only infants who cannot speak for themselves, but also all those baptized Roman Catholics and who have fallen away from the practice of the Roman Catholic religion. It was once admitted that in the Roman Catholic diocese of Brooklyn, N. Y., there were at least a quarter of a million so-called Roman Catholics who never put a foot into a church.

The Jesuit Magazine *America* once admitted that the Roman Catholic Church in America had lost a potential 60,000,000 members in the past 150 years—through

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birth control, mixed marriages, public school education, and the social influences of Protestant communities.

If it is true, as Father Coakley says in this article, that "Catholics are slipping out the back door faster than God permits us to bring in new candidates by the front door," then it is difficult to see how there can be any increase in Catholic Church membership in the United States.

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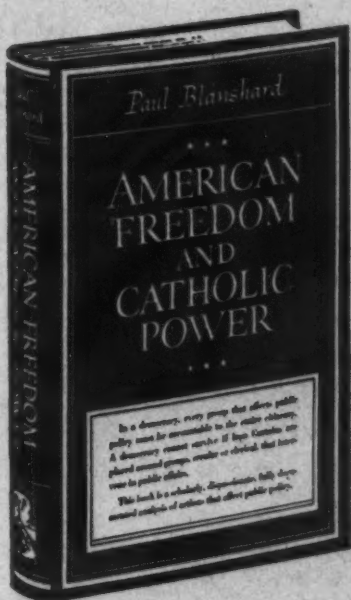
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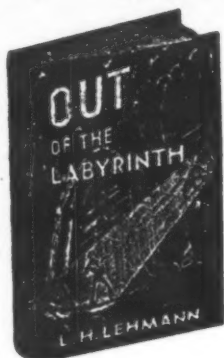
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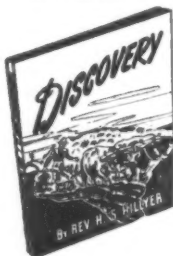
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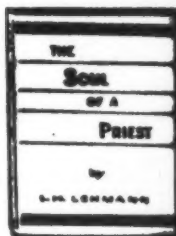
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